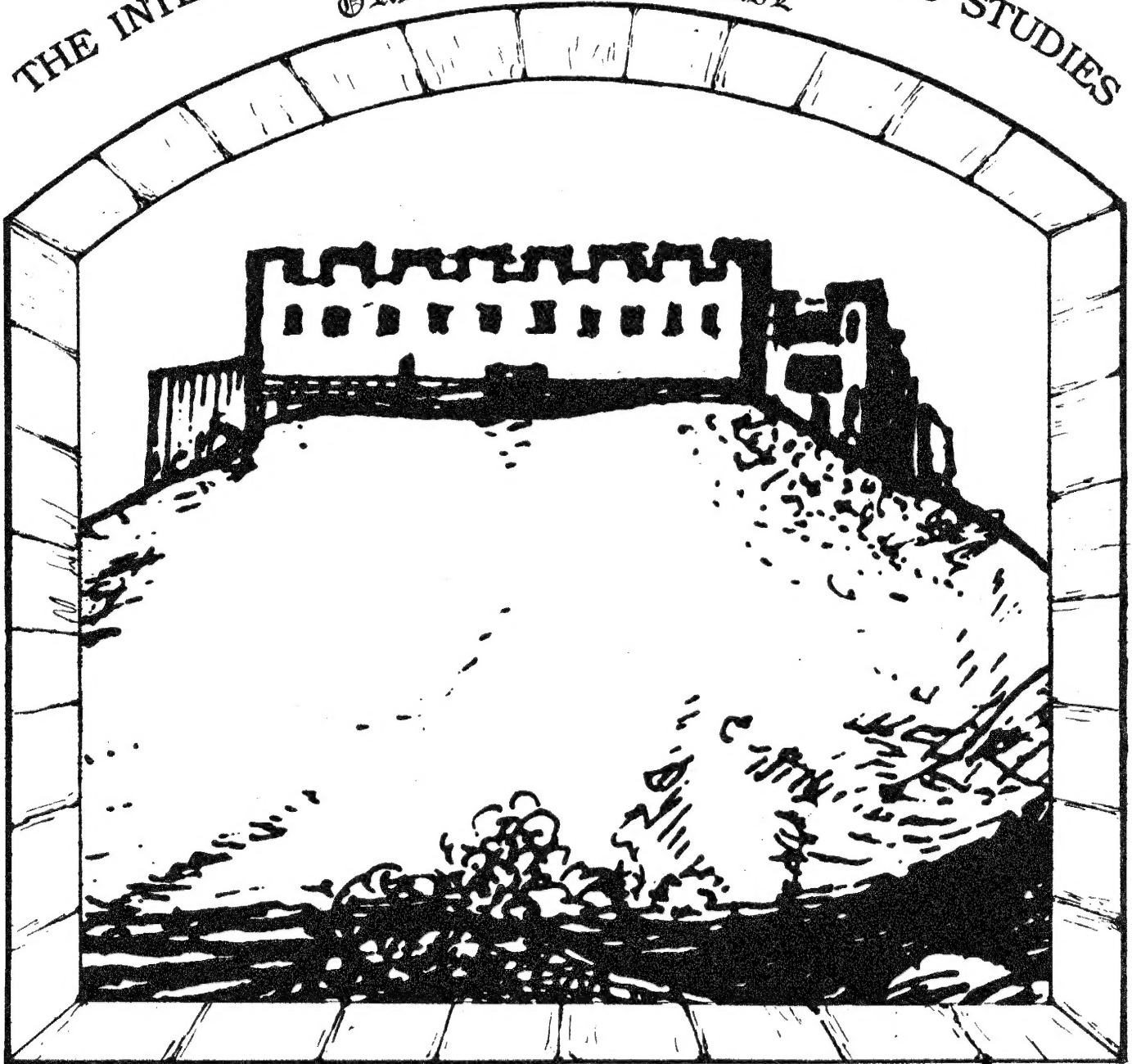


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DEVOTED TO THE ADVANCEMENT AND MYSTICAL ENLIGHTENMENT OF MAN

FRATERNITAS ROSÆ CRUCIS

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THE BIOLOGY OF THE SOUL

And the Lord God formed Man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life: and man become a LIVING soul."
Genesis, ii, 7.



WHAT IS the human soul? Whence came it? How is it formed and of what is it formed? How do we know that we have such a thing as a soul?

These are some of the questions that have pre-occupied the world's greatest thinkers since the dawn of recorded human intellection. Manifold theories, speculations and hypotheses have been put forth and doctrines upon which the very salvation of the soul was asserted to depend, have been established by ecclesiastical mandate, yet the insufficiency of the explanations offered by orthodox theology have long since caused the laity to suspect that our recognized spiritual leaders are no more competent to reply than the supposedly less spiritual erudite layman.

In everyday usage, we note the frequency with which the trinity of terms "Body, Mind and Spirit" or "Body, Soul and Spirit" are employed and as a result, the word "soul" is more frequently than otherwise used entirely out of its proper place and meaning. This is probably because the liberal translations of the Greek "*pneuma*" are often employed to indicate either soul or spirit, whereas the soul is personified in the Greek "*Psyche*", and "*pneuma*" indicates more properly air or breath.

This furnishes us with our immediate clue to the esotericism of our text, for we learned in the preceding instruction in this course, that every thing springs from its own seed, and also that *every* seed must *die* before it can be quickened or grow into fulfilled manifestation.

So, therefore, even as the seed in Mother Earth first dies, and is then quickened by the breath of Brother Wind and the vitalizing power of Friend Light, so the Lord God breathed into man the breath (*pneuma*) of life and that same God being the source of Light, SOME sort of seed in man which had died was quickened, sprang into activity and man became a LIVING soul.

So it is with the Soul of the Experience assimilated by Man. Age after age he has progressed, gathering experience; learning what to seek and what to avoid, and often stubbornly refusing to avoid that which he has learned he SHOULD avoid, and the nourishment afforded by the Soul pabulum extracted has been accordingly.

Soul has made Man a LIVING creature in the sense of being an intelligent creature as distinguished from the Animal, but soul itself has been undergoing a gradual development just as the soul of the food stuffs of today would hardly keep alive the human aborigine of perhaps 100,000 years ago. And the soul qualities of man of that period would not prevent him from murder and crime of every conceivable sort if he could suddenly appear in our midst today, for to him, such acts would not be immoral but simply unmoral and merely a means to gain what he individually desired.

One evidence that, contrary to the teachings of orthodox theology, soul is not a developed vehicle at birth, we found in the subject text of the previous Instruction that "that was not first which was spiritual, but that which was natural", i. e., the physical body. And in our present text we find a confirmation that fits the facts of the case exactly, for it reads,—“And the Lord God formed Man of the dust of the ground”. In other words, his physical body was evolved to active functioning first. Afterwards when there was a physical body, the Threefold Spirit could begin to make its soular extractions therefrom.

Soul becomes the pabulum or nutrition of the Spirit and Ego, which require substantial nourishment for their existence, just the same as any other phase of expression of the Life Principle.

Among the ancient Hebrews, soul was confused with this Principle of Life itself as embodied in all living creatures, and this concept was perpetuated all thru the Old Testament writings and to some extent continued in the New and it is due to this fact that so much misunderstanding has arisen.

St. Augustine, as a disciple of the later Greek philosophers even though a rigid churchman, taught “the simple, immaterial and spiritual nature of the human soul—a view which has remained that of the scholastic philosophy and of the Christian theologians down to the present time.

Descartes, by his theory of automatism as applied to the bodily organism and his doctrine that the essence of the soul is rational thinking, gave the modern turn to the present diverse views of the true conception. Of these views, monistic idealism, materialism, parallelism and functional interactionism are among the more prominent. Churches have long since abandoned the older form of substantialism or the “entity theory”, and as Rosicrucian students we know that the soul is not an entity, but, when developed, simply a threefold vehicle.

Soul has a distinct mission to perform. It is not alone nourishment for the Spirit; it reacts upon that self-same Spirit to purify it, redeem it and restore it to its original Divine status as before its dip into Matter and what has been since called the “Fall of Spirit” which is synonymous with the “Fall of Man” for it means no more nor less than the crystallization of Spirit IN Matter.

The plant grows, blossoms, and then in its ripe maturity it gives forth its individual seed. But that seed contains not only all the potentialities that have been manifested in the immediate plant, but also those that shall manifest in greater degree in the next subsequent growth therefrom.

In the Animal types we find it manifesting as what we term Instinct.

In the homo or human, it is at last the LIVING PERFECTED, MANIFESTED Soul Quality we call REASON, which makes possible the KNOWLEDGE OF SELF.

It is by virtue of the Soul Seed Atom that the spinal cord with its flower the Threefold Brain, Frontal, Mid, and Lower is developed. These are again subdivided into five divisions, 1 Cerebrum (*prosencephalon*), 2. *Diencephalon* or interbrain, containing the optic thalami and parts contiguous thereto; 3, *Mesencephalon* or mid-brain comprising the crura cerebri and the corpora quadrigemina; 4, the *Metencephalon*, comprising the cerebellum and pons varioli; and 5, the *Myelencephalon*, or medulla oblongata.

To these five we add the Pineal Gland and the Pituitary Body and we have the mystic SEVEN; with the cuneus and precuneus we have NINE, and with, the septum lucidum, foramen of Monro, the fourth ventricle and the paracentral lobule we have the mystic THIRTEEN. So the cosmic 3 5, 7, 9 and 13 are microcosmically crystallized to make possible to Man alone of all the Kingdoms known to Earth, the KNOWLEDGE OF HIMSELF, thru the pabulum afforded by the Soul, which, as previously stated is grown or extracted from the Threefold Body by the activity of the Threefold Spirit.

Soul is ESSENCE. It is in each homo, the essence that homo has brought over from a previous phase of expression, and, in the cases of the first homos, it is the essence Divine brot over from its nascent state in the Solar Orb.

It is extracted by exactly the same processes analogously, as any other essence is extracted, bearing in mind, however, that the process is on the spiritual plane of being, and while the Soul Seed Atom is located at the base of the spinal column contiguous to the seed producing and bearing organs of the physical body, it is in spiritual biology thus situated so that it can supply the necessary stimulus and motive power to effect the raising of the spinal vertebrae from the horizontal position of the Animal Kingdom, to the upright position of the Human, crowning the homo as the result, with the sublime gift of Reason, which makes Man a little lower than the Gods.

We know that day by day we take into our bodies meals consisting of various mixtures of food stuffs, prepared unfortunately as a rule without much attention to the proper chemistry involved. Yet from this mixture, the bodily organs select from the pabulum distributed to them by the blood, exactly what they individually need. All this pabulum, taken inclusively is known as the nourishment extracted from the food stuffs by the bodily organs, for the sustenance of the physical body.

This is what has actually happened. The digestive processes of the body have extracted the SOUL OF THE FOOD STUFFS for the bodily nutrition.

In a similar way, the Threefold Spirit extracts from the Threefold Body itself the SOUL of the Experience it has taken in as Food Stuff or nourishment from the intellectual faculties.

The Soul of the food stuffs of primitive Man was far different from that of Man today. In the beginning, man not only ate everything the natural world provided, in his ignorance eating that which hurt and sometimes kild him as well as that which did him good, he sometimes ate even his fellow men. He had to learn by long, continued observation, what was good for him and what was evil, and how to distinguish between them.

Twelve of these tendrils radiate out exactly like the roots which form from ordinary seed and become the channels of nutrition for the psychical or spiritual centers of the body which operate under the control of the awakened solar plexus.

The thirteenth or odd tendril cannot in the lower Kingdoms make further progress because its position is inverted and therefore remains dormant until the human stage of expression is reached. In the human, this thirteenth tendril develops upward thru the channel in the spinal cord known to occultists as the *Shushumna*—as the Hindus call it.

The rapidity of its growth depends upon the intensity of the internal creative fire or spiritual power called the *Kundalini*, which can be greatly augmented by special developmental processes but which is, nevertheless, operative in every human being to a greater or lesser extent.

Proceeding up this *Shushumna* or spinal canal, it began its formative expression at the point of junction of the spinal cord with the brain, known as the Daath Junction in our rituals. The brain itself is the flower or blossom, the fruit of soul development in so far as in the human it conveys to the organism the power of individual perception and Self Knowledge; in other words, as distinct from the purely animal brain, man becomes a *LIVING SOUL*, or an organism in which, at last, the soul finds manifestation or expression in the rational, sentient and emotional qualities.

Expressed diagrammatically, the growth of the soul will be found to illustrate the growth of the Rose and this is the esoteric secret of our Fraternity of which the ROSE above all other symbolisms, is the correspondence and analogy.

The breaking down of the spiral structure of the Soul Seed Atom as previously mentioned may be illustrated by the magnet. First we observe an ordinary bar magnet with its plus or minus, positive and negative. North and South poles at the two extremes of the bar.

Now if we bend this bar into such a shape that the two ends are opposite each other but side by side, we have the ordinary so-called "horse-shoe" magnet. If we continue to bend it until we join the two ends or poles and form a circle, *apparently* we have closed our magnet and lost its polarities.

But such is not actually the case for if we were to experiment, we should find that we have simply changed the location of the polarities, and now, one side of the circle would display one polarity and the other side would display the other. Nature WILL INSIST on keeping the two polarities present and active in all cases.

So it is with the Soul Seed Atom. The polarities are present when the spiral structure is unbroken before *quickenings*. But when, in the homo the *pneuma* or breath of life awakens the development of the Mental Faculties, these spiral structural lines of force are broken down, then the two polarities express at the extremities of the broken lines of curvature, and become the forces which move to growth in the tendril-like formations already described.

The *substance* of the Soul Seed Atom is electronik, combining to form the atomic structure. And altho it may not find its expression as developed LIVING Soul in the lower Kingdoms, nevertheless the evidences of its presence and power are none the less obvious.

In the Mineral Kingdom its power manifests as the forces which cause crystallization in regular, perfect, geometric forms.

In the Vegetable Kingdom, it manifests as the exquisite essence we call the perfume.

It is because we know ANYTHING AT ALL, that we are sufficiently intelligent to know that we have a soul. We behold evidences of varying grades of intelligence or rather states of dormant consciousness in the lower Kingdoms, but nowhere do we find evidences of anything like actual knowledge. We are familiar with the trance-consciousness of the Mineral; the Dreamless Sleep-Consciousness of the Vegetable; the Dream-consciousness of the Animal, but all the evolutionary processes and degrees of activity peculiar to each we find to be the result of external guidance by the Group Spirit of each Kingdom.

Man is the only creature on this planet that KNOWS and KNOWS THAT HE KNOWS. Man is, therefore, the only creature on this planet possessing manifested soul qualities, in other words, Man IS a LIVING SOUL.

The Animal has both bodily and spiritual vehicles but it has neither individuality nor personality, simply, because it has no indrawn Ego and there can be no Ego until the Spirit becomes individualized. In order to effect this, there must be some intermediary condition or pabulum by and thru which the Spirit can react upon the Material vehicle. This intermediary condition is necessary in order to establish the requisite coordination and synchronization of vibratory conditions which will make possible the consciousness of Self and thru this consciousness of Self, effectual individualization, the beginnings of knowledge and the ability to translate external sense perceptions into intimate personal experience.

So it is thru the individualization of the Spirit or the attainment of Ego-ness, that we KNOW inherently and inwardly that we DO possess a Soul or something in addition to our ordinary physical and spiritual qualities that makes it possible for the one to apprehend the other.

What IS the human soul?

Everything grows from its own seed. This, therefore, is true of the soul. And when we apply our analogy to the human soil, we must naturally look for the seed of the soul just where in the human economy seed is formed.

We are all more or less familiar with the biological action of ordinary seed. We understand the process of division by fission and the increase of structural substance by the continued multiplication of cells.

The same process is true by analogy with the soul only here we are dealing with electrons which form the substance of the Soul Seed Atom instead of protoplasmic cells.

The seed of the human soul is the spiritual, invisible counterpart of the seed generated in the human generative organs. It is not the substance of those organs but the potentiality embodied in the matrix from which those organs are developed.

The Soul Seed Atom itself is an elongated lemon-shaped structure, which, seen physically, would appear like an open spiral in a state of the most intensified vibration. As the homo develops and matures until that particular cycle of seven at which the mental faculties function independently is reached, it gradually breaks down its atomic structure in a manner similar to that by which an atom of Radium breaks down, and in this process of dying, its spiral lines become resolved into tendril-like formations expressing the two polarities taught by Hermeticism as common to all departments of the Life Kingdoms.

This breaking up into polarized extremities is the process which is analogous to the division by fissure of the primitive cell.

In the Polarian Epoch we had only the MINERAL MAN, that is, the physical body with its mineral-chemical constituents.

In the Hyperborean Epoch we had the PLANT MAN or VEGETABLE MAN with the Etheric and Physical Bodies.

In the Lemurian Epoch, we had the ANIMAL MAN, with the Astral, Etheric and Physical Bodies.

In the Atlantean Epoch we had Man, the *homo*, possessing all the vehicles of the former epochs, but with MIND unfolding, and it was to this period that the text from *Genesis* refers, for it was when Man became able to function with his Mental Sheath or vehicles of Mind Stuff, that he also became a LIVING, that is, a sentient, *rational* Soul.

The researcher may enquire at this point: "if everything grows from its seed, whence came the seed of the soul of primal Man"?

Some years ago, when the mummy of one of the Ramessidæ of ancient Egypt was unwound, several seeds were found. After the lapse of several thousand years, science did not, at that time, believe that life could be preserved thru any such medium of perpetuation. However, it was decided to plant them and see what result, if any, occurred. The result was what is now known as the Royal Rameses Dahlia, one of the most gorgeous and richly beautiful of blossoms.

Now, science knows that the life principle, as a latent force in seed preservation, stretches over almost inconceivable time gaps.

This illustration will prepare us for the answer to the question, whence came the soul seed of man?

From the Sun!

It has been taught all thru our courses in occult science, that Man is essentially and potentially Divine. He possesses the Divine Spark which links him to his Solar Source.

And while the lineage of Man may be traced thru the descent or dip of Virgin Spirit into Matter, nevertheless the original Soul Seed Atoms originated with the celestial or Solar forbears of Earth's Humanity.

Nascent Man, or Man-in-the-making, preserved these Soul Seed Atoms intact all thru the long periods known as Polarian, Hyperborean and Lemurian, for just as each seed in Nature requires its own specialized soil and individual chemic requisites, so the Soul Seed Atoms remained in darkness and gestation until Man, by the use and function of Mind, could supply the LIGHT they particularly required, and when this Light of Intelligence distinguished Man from the Animal Types, then his spiritual faculties, released from their age-long confinement in the types of consciousness peculiar to the lower Kingdoms, opened up to and received the Breath of Life in their awakening to and recognition of their Divinity and Man became a LIVING soul.

In other words, the Soul Seed Atoms had died thru the three preceding Periods as explained in the preceding Instruction, only to be quickened in the Four or Atlantean Period.

Just as the gardener, on a sunny day, plants some special seed, and thereafter many days and nights must pass ere that seed comes into manifestation, so the Soul Seed Atoms develop in *nascent man*, while germinating in the Sun ere our Earth was cast therefrom, have been dying, in the words of St. Paul, or disintegrating their physical envelope during the Cosmic Days and Cosmic Nights alternating the great time divisions thru the lower Kingdoms, to find the Light in the Awakening and Dawn of Intelligence, in Man.

So it is with the Soul Seed Atom of Man. Released at the ripe maturity of death, it contains not only all that the individual homo HAS been, but also the potentialities that shall characterize the next subsequent incarnation of that self-same Ego, thru the storing and assimilation of the experience thoroly digested.

The products of the food-stuffs of the body after the soul of them has been extracted by the digestive organs are excreted and cast off as fecal or refuse matter. The experience of the Threefold Body from which is extracted the Threefold Soul when no longer of service to the Threefold Spirit is likewise cast off or excreted from the spiritual economy as Karmic matter or experience, the accumulation of which, about the Spirit must be worked off by the Law of Compensation which is the great sanitarian of Cosmos.

Food gives to the physical body power, strength, and the ability to function; Soul gives to the Ego, rationality, sentience, and the ability to sensibly appreciate emotional differentiations.

It is thru the soul qualities that we are able to apprehend and appreciate beauty in form, color and tone, which go to make up the fundamentals of all culture, whether it expresses thru literature, the drama, poetry or even science, for science is simply an understanding of the beauty of the harmonic law of the universe wherein all things have their appropriate place with mathematical exactitude.

The aborigine in whom the soul is just beginning to struggle for expression has no concept of beauty and order as cultured and so called civilized beings have it, nevertheless even with him, the soul quality will be found working its way outward in the geometrical designs of his wonderful yet crude weavings, his totems, charms and objects of religious expression.

While soul is gradually working its way to greater perfection of expression, we can assist and accelerate that growth by conscious, intentional, intelligent acts of soul culture, which consist in cultivating a true valuation of the beautiful in every phase and department of life. We can by so doing abbreviate many otherwise long periods of evolutionary process, just as by the supply of proper nourishment given with all extraneous elements carefully deleted, we can assist and accelerate the growth of plant and animal forms of life.

This is not only our privilege, but our duty, as possessors of the Divine faculty of Self-knowledge and those who decline to give such culture their attention are penalized by a still greater crystallization into materialism than they at present maintain.

This is that which was intended by the Prophet Isaiah (LV, 3) when he exhorted Israel,—“Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall LIVE”.

To incline our ear means to give attention. To “come unto Him” means to seek the source of all Truth and all Beauty. To hear, means to receive and understand. If we seek at the source of Truth and Beauty and open our minds and inner vision to the Reality of Being, attempting to the best that in us lieth, to understand, we shall be conscious of living as we never lived before.

Most people go thru life's Path seeing but one side of it. They are not conscious that there IS another side, or, if they are so conscious to some vague extent, they will not look at it, because not having seen it they are fearful lest they see that which they will not wish to see and may not understand. Such people leave the culture of their soul to work its own way as best it can, and in such will seldom be found any keen appreciation of the higher, better and more beautiful things in life.

This necessity of soul culture was voiced by the Psalmist when he said (CIII, 1) "Bless the Lord, O my soul: AND ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME, bless his holy name." This was a frank recognition thru the inspirational insight, of the intelligent functioning of the spiritual and soular vehicles for in the words "ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME" he indicates that he well understood that there were within himself specialized vehicles of consciousness entirely differentiated from the physical body alone.

The power of soul when cultured and releast from the shackles and confinements and the artificial restraints of conventionality which man erects in every age to mark his pseudo culture but which are in reality monuments to his true ignorance of correct values, is wonderful in the extreme.

Many a man in whom the soul quality is powerfully developpt has risen almost from the proverbial gutter to become a recognized and adored leader of men and world events. The great movements in human life have not sprung from so-called "Society" wherein it is considered great humanitarian work and act of supreme self sacrifice to dance, eat, shimmy or roll a few yards of sanitary bandages, nominally for "sweet charity" but principally for their own sakes.

The big things in human life and the big human factors in that life have almost invariably sprung from lowly surroundings but the soul qualities developpt in them in previous incarnations have blossomed forth in their season and the world rubs its eyes and wonders "if any good thing can come out of Galilee", and having decided that some thing HAS come, grudgingly at first makes the best of it, and after that soul has passed, appoints national holidays to show its unanimous accordance of the laurel leaves to the one who has passed.

But far greater are they who are thus honored, for they belong not half so much to their own generation, as to the generations who shall come after them and who, profiting by their example, shall continue the constructive work they set in operation. These are they who have come out of great tribulation, from every every tribe and every people of all the nations upon the earth. These are they whose soul qualities were manifest as LIVING, tangible Principles which none could pull down and which all could join in emulating. These are they who make the rest of humanity appear small and insignificant with their petty ambitions; these are they who have learned in the close of their involuntary incarnations that sacrifice is the supreme test of mortality and who are willing and glad to take upon their shoulders the sins of the whole world, if by so doing they could leave it a better world than when they entered it.

If we give half as much thought to soul culture as we to physical culture we shall not have to worry about the former, for we shall develop powers that will regulate al other activities and bring the Kingdom very close to our mortal perception.



R + C

"ALCHEMY OF THE SOUL"



MUCH has been written about the human soul and much will be written about it in ages to come. We have stressed the importance of the soul to an extent that causes some to ask, "Why is it so necessary?" An understanding of the soul is necessary to man's next forward step. In the past, he has regarded it as merely something to do with his religion. It is far *more important* than *that* for the religious side is only one phase of it. We will try to make it clear, for only when one *understands* his soul does one begin to *live*.

Each one of us is three beings, but we shall not use the terms with which you are so familiar. Each of you is a Physical Man and a Spiritual Man. With those two terms you are familiar. You are also something else. In the earth life, the producer gets his goods to the consumer only through an intermediary. The consumer gets his necessities only through an intermediary from the producer. That intermediary you call the middleman. In humanity, *each* soul is a *middleman*. If you will keep in mind these three,—Physical Man, Middleman and Spirit-Man you will begin to understand yourselves and the importance of the soul as never before.

The physical man draws upon the Spirit *only through the soul*. The Spirit avails itself of the functions of the physical man *only through the soul*. Without soul, one would not be *human*. Soul being the essence or food on which the Spirit or Ego feeds or grows,—could anything be more important?

Your physical body exists and grows and remains vital or full of life because of the chemical elements you put into it. Your mental

life owes its existence, capacity for expansion and ability to remain fit or creative to the thoughts you engage in and put into your mental life. Thoughts are the mental food of the mind. This may seem like a paradox because you have been told that mind is cosmic or universal and you ask,—how can our own individual thoughts affect the ocean of mind? Yes, it is a strange paradox but true just the same. This law applies to the physical plane as well as to the mental plane. All life is universal, yet man has been given the privilege or opportunity of using a portion of it. What he does with the life principle that has been apportioned to him individually is his own personal responsibility.

The body is to be used, improved, nourished and cared for. Man has, through experience, learned that if he does not eat, he starves. Yet the very same laws that apply to the physical plane apply also to all other planes as well. "As above, so below and—as below, so above." Man can also starve mentally, emotionally and spiritually. We all know this from experience but, aside from taking care of the physical requirements, how many strive to nourish intelligently the other vehicles or bodies which are equally in need of proper nourishment?

Aside from the Four Elements of which the body is composed, think of the many chemicals it embodies and the many substances it requires for proper living and functioning. Man, analyzed chemically, is found to possess *all chemicals* in various quantities according to temperament and environment.

Man contains within himself the various forms of the Mineral Kingdom from lead, the lowest, to gold, the highest. As man advances in his knowledge of the Elements he will discover he also has radium. He possesses them all, in minute quantities it is true, but they each and all play an important part or function in his physical life. The quantity of each of these chemicals that he possesses largely determines his temperament. We all know that any one having much iron is energetic and has greater resistance, while he who possesses more lead is sluggish and has lower resistance and less physical vitality.

The blood stream is the River of Life and each organ in the body receives its nourishment from this wondrous and mysterious stream. Blood is referred to as the home of the Ego. It is really more than that; it is a channel or medium through which the Ego can keep in touch with every cell in our bodies. Think that over!

Our constant reference to the functions of the physical body is to impress one fact and that is, that all the other bodies of man obey or follow the same laws.

If man, on the physical plane, responds to the component chemicals and elements of his physical body, mentally he responds or reacts to these on the mental and spiritual planes too.

We all have seen the effect of lowered vitality on the physical plane usually reflected in similar lowerings on the mental and spiri-

tual planes as well. Notice that we use the word "usually" and therein lies the secret and power of the *Alchemy* of the mind. When man lives a purely physical or material life his body rules his mind, but when man lives a mental life, his mind rules his body.

In another way we can say,—“Tell me what you *think* and I’ll tell you what *you are*.”

Man’s ability to govern and control his thoughts is what he is now striving to develop, just as in ages past he has learned how to control and use his physical body and to co-ordinate his physical activities.

What has all this to do with the soul you ask? Just this,—that man seems to forget that the analogies or correspondences of all his physical experience have spiritual and mental counterparts.

As the blood stream is the river of life and enables the Ego to contact every cell in our physical bodies, so our *consciousness* is the *mental* river of life through which the Ego can *feel* and contact all *mental experiences or mental life*.

Our consciousness or our awareness is the result or product of our physical experiences in ages past. But—“What of the soul?” you ask. “Is the soul the product of our emotions?” The soul is the *essence or product* of our experience on the physical, the emotional, or astral, and the mental planes. It is a *living essence*, upon which the Ego or Divine Spark feeds and grows.

Man, in his daily speech, often voices truths he does not know he is expressing. How often have we used the term “poor soul,” “rich soul,” “gentle soul,” “A soul of stone,” “a generous soul,” a “selfish soul” and so on. Unknowingly, man is describing the soul but he knows it not. He believes he is only using a form of speech. You ask then, whether the soul is something in man that can change during an incarnation,—and be one thing in youth and another thing in old age? Yes, for the soul is the essence or product of our experience in a given life and our experiences alter or change as we live.

Do we not observe the change in physical bodies according to the chemistry of the foods we eat? One person’s blood is well supplied with iron, therefore, it is rich and thick, whilst another’s lacks that iron and is weak and anaemic. Too many arsenoids cause pallor. Acidosis, arthritis and many other conditions show the changes the body makes according to what it receives and it is equally true with the soul.

The soul changes according to what it receives, in obedience to the common law. The essence of every experience in our physical, emotional and mental life is *absorbed* by the soul. The soul then *digests* this experience, as it were, into an essence that *can be absorbed by the Ego*. It is a spiritual chemistry or alchemy, where the essence of our experience is being raised to an higher vibration.

This absorption is constantly taking place during mortal life

but to a limited extent because the major part of our life is spent in physical activities and that is as it should be.

The major and most important absorption or transmutation takes place after so-called death, when the physical is not demanding all the attention and the other vehicles have an opportunity to function more actively.

The soul is the storehouse of our experience in a given incarnation. It is squarely up to each one of us individually what we store in that soul for the Ego's consumption or absorption. In other words, the soul is the storehouse of the essence of what we *do*, what we *feel* and what we *think*. There are incarnations when the Ego gets very little nourishment and others when it absorbs much. It all depends upon how man uses and lives his life.

Remember, that man learns through his mistakes and it is *this learning* that becomes the *essence* that the soul *extracts*. In other words, all experience, whether good or so-called bad has value to the soul. No experience is in vain; all has its place and value. The soul is the clearing house, the middleman, through which it must pass.

Although the soul is the product of each individual incarnation, remember that the seed atoms of each vehicle contain the substance or essence of past experience and therefore the soul forming in a given life is actually re-forming from the essence of all our past experience. This is a difficult thought to convey in words. Our soul, although expanded in each life is the product of all our past experience. Do we make ourselves clear?

You could not have a so-called black soul in this life and have had a white one in a previous life. That would be devolution and unthinkable. If some one has a noble soul it is because the essence of the seed atoms has extracted nobility from their previous life experiences.

You ask, "Has soul a body?" Yes and no. It *functions* throughout *all* the bodies of man and yet has no *form* of its own. Blood functions similarly, yet has neither form nor shape.

How can the soul *function*? The soul not only absorbs the essence of all experience to digest and transfer to the Ego,—but it also transfers from the Ego to the various bodies the essence of its past experiences. Again, the middleman we formerly described. It acts as a transmitter to both sides and therefore is of tremendous importance in the life of man.

When man is listening to the "*inner voice*" he is dependent upon the soul for the transmission of the message from the Ego itself to his consciousness.

You ask,—“How about the cases of the mentally ill? Can the Ego work its way through?”

The Ego *knows* the *answer* but when a vehicle is ill or out of alignment the Ego is unable to work its way through to the physical or conscious man.

You ask,—“Does an Ego learn under such circumstances?” Yes, but in a limited way. It learns mainly that it must learn to build more perfect vehicles through which to function and that, in itself, is a great lesson. The next time the Ego begins its journey to earth, it will be very careful in helping to build the vehicles it is to occupy,—for the Ego plays an important part in building its physical, etheric and astral bodies and carelessness in any part of these is greatly repented later.

The Ego is not only the builder of man but also of all the vehicles through which that Ego shall function. How truly then, we are the builders of our *own lives but see it not*. Only when we fully realize this fact do we begin to build our lives into what we want them to be.

Yes, you say, that is all very well and good, but what about the man or woman who has a *weak physical* vehicle to work through, but desires to accomplish much and cannot?

Yes, even these beings *can* accomplish what they desire if they will use all the powers and abilities they possess to the utmost.

Beethoven was *stone deaf* in later life yet he produced *miracles in music*. Milton went *blind* but that did not prevent him from seeing with the eyes of the Spirit,—which is *true* poetry. Helen Keller is deaf and blind but that has not prevented her from becoming a *light* and a Guide to those entombed in a world of darkness and silence. And so, friends, we could list thousands of cases, some known to history and others unknown and unsung. A man or a woman can become a source of inspiration, light and radiance even when bed-ridden. It all depends upon the co-ordination between the Ego, the soul and the mind—again our middleman.

The co-ordination between the soul and the mind is what produces—*will power*. If we lack will-power, the co-ordination between the soul and mind is weak and requires exercising. Will-power is something that can be developed no matter how lacking it may seem to be. Discouragement and lack of confidence are its greatest enemies.

Observe and note, that people with the greatest will-powers are the souls full of courage, confidence and faith; the channels through which the will can operate. The reason why we are dwelling upon the power of the will, or will-power, is because man's spiritual growth is so dependent upon this faculty.

Some people have the mistaken idea that to be stubborn and inflexible after reaching a decision they are exercising will-power. The truth is, they are exercising just the *reverse*. Will-power *has intelligence; inflexibility has none*.

Will-power is under the direction of the Ego and through the Ego strengthens the soul of man and his mind. Stubbornnesses are *fixations in the brain* and have no *spiritual guidance behind them*. Do we make our point clear?

The use of will-power produces vital, constructive, happy results in our life. The use of stubbornness and inflexibility produces nothing and brings much unhappiness to all concerned. Therein lies the answer. One is a constructive, vital, spiritual power; the other is a negative and purely physical reaction.

The Ego is at all times eager to reach out and guide its vehicles but, paradox of paradoxes, the very vehicles it has built are making it difficult for the Ego to accomplish this very thing. Why does man encumber himself with these vehicles? Because he is learning to become a creator and builder.

Friends, at the close of the reading of this message, try this spiritual exercise, in fact, try it every night before retiring.

In the silence—relax completely!

Then, above all, hold a feeling of friendliness for everyone you know. Hold no resentment, for resentment closes the door between the Ego and the soul. Then let the Ego or Divine *you* pour the essence of its glorious vitalizing power into your soul. Feel your soul, mind and body *expand* and sense a *glow of* radiance and happiness and well-being, the like of which you have not sensed before.

It is when you are in this state of being that the Ego and soul are in rapprochement and the transmission between these two vehicles is *perfect*. Exaltation and inspiration are the result.

Man has this perpetual source of Light, Life and Happiness *within himself at all times* and yet he looks elsewhere for the answer.

We are considering the "Alchemy of the Soul." We have said somewhat regarding the soul itself. Now what do we mean by alchemy? It is an obsolete word, used more or less contemptuously, especially by those who know nothing at all about it.

The word alchemy itself comes to us from two words, the Arabic "al" and the Egyptian "Chemi" which is a modernization of the earlier form Khemi or simply Khem. Khem was one of the names of ancient Mizraim as Egypt was formerly termed. Lands, like human beings, in Egypt bore many names, each having its assumed magical or special significance. Khem, in one sense, meant "hidden." Al signified fire. Hence from this combination, alchemy originally meant the Hidden Fire of Egypt and as Fire was also, in another sense, wisdom and Egypt was assumed to be the shrine of wisdom in alchemy, we have the study of the Hidden Wisdom of Egypt.

To Egypt therefore, as history shows us, journeyed the greatest scholars and philosophers from all parts of the ancient world. In ancient Khem or Khemi, they sought the Hidden Fire or Wisdom which would make possible all things.

You have been taught, and rightly so, that man is a threefold being, a composite creature of body, soul and spirit. That is one of the priceless heritages from the ancient "Mother of Nations and

Races" or "Land of Beginnings." In their studies in that hoary land scholars learned also that man was threefold, a composite creature of the Ka, the Ba and the Khou. And especially did they seek the secret of transmutation, the change or mutation of the soul into the seed of the greater man-to-be in his next earth-life or incarnation.

This idea, in a warped conception of it, found its way northward, and mediaevally, scholars applied it to the attempt at the transmutation of metals, at least outwardly, to produce the raising of one element to an higher. We say the idea was warped, for while they were on the right track they went about it by mechanical means and formulas for which the world was not ready. Still good comes from all well meant and worthy attempts and while they were unprepared for their Great Work or Magnum Opus they did discover and bring to light many natural laws which gave us our modern science of chemistry, still the old name under a new form.

Transmutation is a fact, attested by laboratory demonstration in many different lines. But its modern votaries show little respect for their ancient parent and disport themselves in casting contempt and ridicule upon the pioneers who made their modern successes possible by their crude attempts to apply a spiritual principle to industrial and economic purposes. Yet the alchemists had their secret too. They were not ignoring the spiritual principle. Perhaps it was their greatest treasure, because any study of the attempts of the mediaeval alchemists reveals that they used the spagyric art as a genuine and profound cloak to conceal their endeavors to learn and to probe more deeply into the soul of man.

Their studies had revealed to them that the soul transmutes the essence of one life expression into the seed of the next succeeding and this is the marvelous "Alchemy of the soul," the subject of this thesis. Soul has been previously described in the Rosicrucian Wisdom Teachings as a "pabulum," extracted by the threefold Spirit from the experience of the threefold bodies. It has also been described as the nourishment of the Ego and that which makes man a rational, sentient and emotional being. It is through the soul that we rise, life by life, evolve, progress and become more proficient creators as becomes sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father.

Life is nature's process of growth. Life after life, the Ego grows more and more in the scriptural stature of the fullness of Christ. The spirit of man grows in power and capacity to carry on the Father's work of creation which is never ended. Bodies grow to organic completions and then disintegrate in order that the Ego and spirit may have at regular intervals newer and better vehicles of expression. Finally, the soul grows too but in its own peculiar way. It grows into fullness and completion and transmutes itself again into the seed of the soul of the next and greater expression, repeating the transmuting process over and over again. In its own transmutation, it also transmutes the experience of spirit and Ego into the pabulum for enrichment not only in the present but in the

future expressions to come. Still more, it holds over the best in the past, to enrich the present and to build both past and present into a greater future. The soul is the alchemist of the threefold man. *The soul of man is the hidden Treasure of Treasures* for with soul man can attain the greatest heights. Without it, he could not leave the tree-tops and the plains.

The Ego, from its vantage point in the head of man, has been termed the Watcher. The soul then may, with equal accuracy, be termed the Worker, the craftsman within. For the soul is not only the digested experience of the individual, it is also the craftsman who etches that experience into the several seed atoms that are to be carried over at death, for subsequent use in the development of the future vehicles of man. For remember, everything grows from its own seed and the vehicles or bodies, physical and spiritual, are no exceptions to this universal law.

Soul, therefore, is truly, the middleman in the threefold set of human vehicles. It is developed by extraction from the accumulated experience of the individual on all planes and then becomes, in turn, the bodily alchemist who performs its own transmutation into the seed of life-to-be that shall manifest therein as our conscience, our response to higher consciousness and, as it grows and expands, bestows upon us the gifts that arise from the exercise of reason.

Always, it is soul that gives us our strongest sentiments of patriotism. Flesh and blood are kin to no land in particular. *Soul* is, for that which composes it is of the essence of the locale in which the experience from which it is derived, originated.

We are each and all pioneers because each day is a new day of discovery in many ways. The battle of life calls for strong warriors and a strong warrior is one who has a strong soul. Through a strong soul, though the body be weak, the Ego can raise one to the greatest heights of ambition, inspiration, intuition and attainment. Strengthen your soul. Develop your soul power.

Oh Man—KNOW THYSELF—for in thee *IS* hid the Treasure of Treasures.

May the Light of Love and True Understanding guide our lives to the at-one-ment we are all seeking.

FRATERNITAS ROSÆ CRUCIS

Rome London
& New York



No

"WHO ARE THE DEAD?"

Ezekiel XXXVII, 1 etc. The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones.

2. And caused me to pass by them round about; and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

3. And he said unto me, Son of Man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest.

4. Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

5. Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones: Behold; I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live.

6. And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live: and ye shall know that I am the Lord.

7. So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone

8. And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

9. Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophecy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord GOD: come from the Four Winds O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

10. So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them and they lived, and stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army.



HERE are still countless adherents of orthodox systems of religion who have absolute faith in a general or final resurrection, at which time the bones of all who have passed from mortal life, will reassemble themselves, become clothed with sinews, flesh, and finally skin, at the sound of the trumpet of an archangel, and as a part of a spectacular phantasmagoria almost beyond the power of man to conceive.

This is the occasion commonly termed the "end of the world" and in our own generation we have observed several movements based upon various prophecies teaching its imminence and detailed preparations have on several such occasions been made, preparatory to the great event. But the planet has continued

in its orbit as usual and if we could ascribe to it a personality, we would almost feel that we could note its gentle smile of compassionate amusement at the mental vagaries of its human microbes.

We can use the last term quite advisedly, for if the newly formulated Laws of Relativity reveal to us the sublimity of cosmic dimensions, they also compel our attention to the relatively microscopic proportions of man.

There is another and numerous group of strictly orthodox interpreters, who find in the lines quoted from Ezekiel, one of the greatest of the mystic prophets of antiquity, two distinct correspondences; one, relating to the physical development and multiplication of the House of Israel and its final return to its own country, foreshadowing in a way the present Palestine Movement or Zionism; the other giving a prevision of the establishment of the Christian Religion as the custos of the fulfilled prophecies of the Jewish Dispensation.

Both these interpretations have been the inevitable result of attempting to comprehend this mystic chapter in a purely exoteric sense.

It is especially appropriate that we consider this question, who the so-called "dead" really are, because the business of the Rosicrucian Order consists chiefly in "RAISING THE DEAD" to life, in accordance with the Scriptural command.

In our Alchemical and Hermetic Instructions we learned that our Ancient as well as our Medieval Brethren in their obscure verbiage, gave the name of "Dead Matter" to ALL LIVING BODIES in the "NATURAL" state, or as found in Nature. (*Jun. Herm. No. 1*) This is the "Terra Mortua" or dead earth, sometimes called by alchemical writers, the "Terra Damnata" and by St. Paul, the "Body of Sin". (*Jun. Hermetics, No. 6*)

Every Rosicrucian Initiate of the Collegiate grade is instructed at the outset, that the SUBJECT of Rosicrucianism is MAN; and the OBJECT of its ART is the Perfection and Improvement of Man; HIS TRANSFORMATION FROM THIS STATE OF NATURE ALLUDED TO INTO A STATE OF GRACE; in other words his transmutation from death in Matter to Life in Spiritual awakening, and it will have been noted that in our Requiem Ritual, which is not at all secret, the departed Fraters are always alluded to as the "awakened".

Death is really a state of sleep; a state of somnolence. Like the Apostle we too can truthfully say, "I die daily", (*1 Cor. xv, 31*) for every time we sleep, we die, the only difference between that state and the final one we commonly call death being that in the daily incident the Silver Cord is not sundered, but the Ego does depart while the restorative functions of the Etheric Vehicle are being carried out.

Death is never, under any circumstances, a final state. Neither the daily death nor the culmination of mortality are final states, and herein lies our hope of salvation from complete and final crystallization into Matter, for as in that Matter or ADAM, ALL DIED, so in Christ or the awakening to the consciousness of Self in the Light of the birth of the Christ within, even so shall all be made alive. (*1 Cor. xv, 22*)

Even in our death in Matter we have no choice for as the Apostle also saith in *Romans xiv, 7*, none of us liveth to himself and NO MAN DIETH TO HIMSELF, in other words, no man can escape, sooner or later, the awakening to the knowledge of SELF and his spiritual existence for that is the fundamental principle and basis of the Law of Evolution and were this not true, there would be neither growth, development or progress in the organic kingdoms of Nature and all would be the dense, mineral formation thruout an inconceivable eternity.

Mortal Life is the Valley of Dry Bones refered to by Prophet Ezekiel, who viewed them in his spiritually clairvoyant capacity, as witness by the very first verse; "The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the Spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of dry bones", the dry bones of philosophy, science, mechanics, industry, commerce, and even religion, unquickened, unawakened, unconscious of any vital spiritualizing factors, and well enuf did the Prophet look clairvoyantly upon them amazed, when he saw "they were very dry".

Calling attention to this lamentable estate of Humanity fallen into death, or dead in Adam, the Divine Spirit raised in his mind the question,—**"Son of man, CAN THESE DRY BONES LIVE?"** And the same question is equally apropos today as we look about us upon a world absorbed in grossest materialism, engaged in struggles between nations for conquest, territory, commercial prestige and concessions in trade, the maddening craze for speculation on stock markets whereby some hope to win by favor of the Goddess Chance, that which they have not earned and to which therefore, they are not entitled,—**CAN THESE DRY BONES LIVE?**

Then come the words, familiar to some Initiates; **"THE MASTER DIES IN LIFE, TO RISE IN DEATH"** and we begin to realize the struggle of Rosicrucianism and Freemasonry to inculcate in their elaborate philosophy exprest in allegory, the true concept of Life and the glorious opportunity that death, so much misunderstood, really gives.

But to refer back to the Prophet and his dismayed observation of the crystallized estate of Humanity. After the question "Can these dry bones live", inspired by the Spirit, he attempts to clothe them. Under his stimulus, Humanity begins to take some thought of its condition. It develops the sinews of scientific fundamentals and the exoteric knowledge of Nature and her laws. It grows and fosters the development of the flesh of philosophic inquiry, speculation and analysis as a basis of arts and letters; finally, it assumes the skin or outward cloak of cultural polish exprest thru religious symbolism and doctrinalia, but, in spite of all these steps toward progress and accomplishment, there was still **NO BREATH IN IT**, and we must remember that in the first study of cosmology and the appearance of Man, it was as a purely physical being, **UNTIL GOD BREATHED INTO IT THE BREATH OF LIFE**,—the Divine Breath which is the stimulus to the development of **SOUL**; the first attempts of the Threefold Spirit to extract from the Threefold Body with all its perfections, the latent and incipient Soul Pabulum, without which the Divinity **IN** man cannot exprest itself and Man cannot hope to **KNOW HIMSELF** in accord with the time honored maxim of the ancient sage. (*Thales*)

So, in obedience to the commands of the Spirit, the Prophet spoke unto the four winds saying; "come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live". And the breath came into them, and they stood upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

In other words, wind being the symbol of active force, the Prophet called into activity the forces of the Four Elements of which man was composed and into which he was so crystallized, and by the opposing polarities of Fire versus Water, Air versus Earth, was established the rhythmic vibrational status that stimulated into activity the Divine Breath in Man, somewhat as is accomplished in the case of a new born infant when by inflating and deflating the physical lungs the first breathing is effected.

But, as stated, death is never a permanent process nor a finality. Consequently in all ages, Humanity while mortal, exhibits this state of death or Dead Matter. And today we find it equally true. While we have the rich inheritance of the wisdom accumulated thru the ages, Man is still more or

less inert in his crystallization into academic science. Philosophy expanded into psychological ramifications and an external skin or pseudo culture which so often fails in the acid test, but exprest by conformity to religious symbolism and ceremonial; the glitter of a New Thought which is neither new nor thought itself; a "Christian Science" which is neither Christian nor scientific; a medical system which substitutes gentle arsenic and nitro glycerine for the delicacies of boiled toads and serpents; a psychology from which the soul, whence it derives its name is carefully eliminated; government wherein the assent of the governed is seldom asked or desired; business in which the old principle of honor has long since become archaic; society which considers the "shimmy" and the "kitchen sink" dances far more esthetic than the stately waltz or quadrille; arts in which real music is only right when interpreted as jazz, pictures which are a travesty on Nature and sculpture which has for its principal purpose, its possibilities as a Lloyd puzzle. Can **THESE DRY BONES LIVE?**

Verily, in the *midst of life* we ARE in *death*. But knowing that death is in no sense finality, we have hope and the certain knowledge that all these things shall pass away, for they are the impermanent, transitory illusions of a world that has temporarily lost its equilibrium and is now in the reaction from one of the most notable convulsions that have ever disgraced its history and no amount of glory won on field or sea can ever erase the underlying selfishness of nations of Humanity that caused it.

It is not always pleasant to contemplate these conditions or to have them thrust upon our attention, especially at a time when the world has gone mad, like the Athenians of old, in search of some new thing which it fondly imagines will give it a newer and deeper insight into the verities of Life itself. But this insight will never come to Humanity as a mass nor to the individual as a unit, until both are equally desirous of learning Truth in its fundamental aspects, regardless of what personal shock to preconceived ideas it may bring.

As above, so below. That is the Law. And as there are in mortal life, the dead all about and around us, so in the inner realms, there are also the dead, those who even yet, have not awakened to the higher vision and who must pass thru incarnations to come before the Breath of Life will function in all its power within them.

The transition commonly assumed to be death, is merely the discarding of the outer vehicle. When we retire for sleep we discard all the garments of the day until nude, when we prepare for the night. So it is with the Ego. When about to begin its return journey in the Cycle of Life, it discards the outer garment or the physical body and after due preparation and activity discards in turn the etheric and astral vehicles and for each discard there is a corresponding state of death. Finally, when in the nudity of its individuality it reaches the Third Heaven, it begins to prepare for its long sleep by the assimilation of digested experience, and on awakening, it begins to reclothe itself with the various garments or vehicles requisite for its later functioning in the physical world again.

The graduating class of a university is always less in numbers than the freshman class. The class graduating from Life's School is, correspondingly, always less in number than the class entering upon a given term or phase of expression.

Broadly speaking therefore, we may assume that there are just as many dead on the "other side" of life, or in the spiritual worlds, as there are in the physical or mortal world. The dead are those who, in physical or incarnate expression have not as yet awakened to the true knowledge and

understanding of their own spiritual natures and self-hood. The man or woman who passes from physical life engrossed in materialism will remain just as much dead in the inner worlds as before he entered them and only the stimulus to rebirth will give him an opportunity of learning this important lesson.

It is right at this point that we begin to perceive the value of an "occult order or Brotherhood" such as our own. The Rosicrucian Fraternity is not by any means the only occult organization of value or devoted to the successful accomplishment of this necessary process; it is simply ONE of the instruments used by the Great White Lodge of Masters of Wisdom to reach a certain class of people who could only be reached or guided by the practices, arts and methods peculiar to it.

But the first and principal duty of the occult student is to seek the hidden, invisible Cause of all revealed or visible Effects and this, the Rosicrucian Schools inculcate more deeply and to greater detail than any other, as it is at present the parent of all other occult or arcane bodies of a legitimate nature or pedigree.

It is only by this seeking or searching out of the invisible CAUSES of visible EFFECTS that we can attain conclusively to an accurate knowledge of ourselves, our Divine lineage and descent and thus it affords us sure and certain KNOWLEDGE, not Theory, regarding the great Principle of Life as Deity Incarnate and Humanity as its manifestation or expression. If our philosophy were mere speculation, it would be a criminal waste of time for us to engage in the study or practice of it, but age after age we have the record of attainment and resurrection from death unto life thru its teachings, and even today, we have with pardonable joy, the splendid record of several who have attained what they sought thru strict and conscientious adherence to the study and practice of our Secret Work. They have been raised from death unto life and experience a consciousness of rest, assurance and contentment foreign to those who have not travelled this way before them. This is the true value of an occult Brotherhood, to raise its members from death unto life by bringing them to a realization of the Truth thru actual personal experience, not alone theory and hypothesis.

Those who have passed before us are to be congratulated, for tho they may or may not have awakened in this life expression, at least they have completed one more term in Life's School and are one term nearer the goal that we must all eventually attain. We can help them by concentrated thoughts for their illumination and welfare, not by wishing them back, or hoping to receive a message of some sort from them, pleasurable and welcome tho that message may surely be.

It is human nature, when considering a lesson of this sort, to apply the parallels to our next door neighbor, while we rest complacently in the assurance that it is not ourselves, personally, who may be indicated. But let us take serious thought and question whether or not, we too, may not be among those who constitute the "Valley of Dry Bones". Let us ask ourselves whether we can and do LIVE. Let us not be content with theories, glittering platitudes, sentimental burblings but take ourselves strictly to task and introspect. There is one infallible test of our position.

If we set anything in this world, business, pleasure, social activities, friendships or personal relations, the amenities of every day intercourse, diplomacy, or so-called matters of policy ABOVE a strict regard for the Truth, the whole Truth and nothing but the Truth; above a strong unqualified desire for personal progress along constructive lines, then we may be sure we too are among the "dry bones" and in sore need of awakening.

If we are content to adopt an orthodox "thank-God-I-am-not-as-other-men-are" attitude or the complacent "I-am-holier-than-thou", pose, we may be equally sure that our own personal dry bones are rattling with an eloquence that makes a serious discord in the "music of the spheres."

If some undoubted celestial being should appear in our modern world, calling each of us to account for the talents entrusted to us like the husbandman returned from his journey, can WE be quite sure that WE would register on the right side of his ledger? Would WE be reckoned among the DEAD or among the LIVE?

Without speculating on the improbable, let us take another view; if a friend suddenly propounded to each one, the question—What is YOUR basis of living and YOUR PERSONAL attitude toward the Universe, what answer could you make? The many would take refuge in the usual platitudes and sagely reply,—“O, I believe in living on the square and dealing honorably by all”,—a good old platitude and one vastly more honored in the breach than the observance—but this would be no reply at all.

If we have passed thru mortal life many times already in previous incarnations, then by every token we ought to KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT IT and if we do not, and cannot give a rational resume of what life IS to us and MEANS to us, it is a positive sign that we have wasted much of our past life and that for every moment we have wasted, we must make due restitution, for TIME, in the abstract, is the greatest gift of God to Man. Have you ever thought of that?

The scientist would tell you Fire was the greatest gift. The Philosopher would tell you Reason; the Churchman would tell you, your Soul and yet none of them would be worth a farthing, were it not for the supreme gift of Time. Time exists not in cosmos for there it is purely an abstraction like Space, but in mortal life it is a superlatively Divine Gift, measuring with exactitude according to the immutable laws of the planets, our individual span of opportunity. That is what Time is to the Human Family,—ITS MEASURE OF OPPORTUNITY. Time exists not with God but it DOES exist with Humanity, and every second of the Divine Gift wasted, is also a part of the Divine Gift spurned and insults to God are not lightly condoned.

We may summon the so-called dead from the Four Cardinal Points of the World and they do not reply. But even so do not forget that the so-called dead DO hear, that which you and I do *not* hear. *We* call *them* the *dead* because they do not hear US. They KNOW *us* to be the really DEAD because we cannot hear THEM. We cannot hear, we cannot see, we do not ordinarily even sense the far greater world they occupy, simply because we are DEAD CRYSTALS of Humanity. We are built in the Image of God, we sparkle with the false lustre of intellectual brilliancy but we sneer when a little child speaks of its invisible playmates, or some researcher gives out his findings in psychology as applied to the persistence of consciousness after death.

Persistence of consciousness AFTER death! Ye gods, what a burlesque on human intelligence. *We* are the dead NOW. Let's not worry about being conscious after the discarding of the physical vehicle,—let us try our utmost to awaken some consciousness right here and now.

The words of the Apostle in *Ephesians* V, 14 were never so applicable as to our own crystallized selves—"awake, thou that sleepest, and *arise* from the *dead*", and the immediate birth of the Christ Spirit within *shall* give thee Light.

Let us not work thru life on the old saw that "we shall be a long time dead". It may be true, measured by mortal concepts, but "over there" we

shall no longer have the *mortal* concept. Opportunity is here—*now*. Does Nature go thru the ordeal of giving birth to countless humans simply that they may engage in trade and the pursuit of pleasure? We are here in mortal life simply because the descent into Matter is necessary to complete our education for our future existence in purely spiritual spheres. The bird born and reared in the captivity of its cage does not know what to do with its liberty when that liberty is offered to it. Even prisoners immured for long terms, become in some cases so detached from the outer world and attached to the prison home, that it is with difficulty that they can be made to leave it.

Humanity that is destined to ultimately become Creative Hierarchs must serve its apprenticeship in the Matter with which it will some day have to work. And until we can certify that we have served our full time and become Master Builders and Craftsmen, we may be sure that we shall not be entrusted with the privilege of working among the cosmic craftsmen.

"I am the resurrection and the Life". These words are found in practically every burial service in Christendom, but they apply with equal power and appeal to the Jew as well, for they were not uttered by the Man Jesus, but by the Christos or Sun Spirit, and this Great Master Initiate as we know, appeals to ALL Humanity and not to any race, nation or people.

The Christos IS the resurrection and the life, not at some far off, indefinite period when our planet shall have completed its course and the dry bones reassemble from every part thereof in spectacular and dramatic effect. He is the resurrection and the life to all who come to him at any moment of mortal time, and by coming to him is meant simply the recognition of his existence as the Indwelling Spirit and Regent of our planet and the fact all life thereon is now a part of and vivified by his life, and so shaping our lives anew that he may be born again in each of us.

Then, "tho we WERE dead, yet shall we LIVE" (*John xi, 25*) is the assurance held out to us of our escape from the REAL DEATH of materialistic crystallization. It has been a long chierist tradition of the Rosicrucian Fraternity, that the possession of the Philosopher's STONE conveys to its holder the gift of escape from physical death and eternal life. It is not within our province to discuss this teaching publicly, but we may say in passing and also as apropos of the present theme, that there is far more truth in this wonderful teaching than the world has any idea of. But like all esoteric truths it must first of all be rightly understood. The Philosopher's STONE is given freely to those worthy of possessing it, but in all the ages of the history of mankind it has never been given to the unworthy, and from those who have possessed it, neither torture, intrigue, threat or violence can wring it. The reason is, that tho it were betrayed, the unworthy could not understand it nor could they recognize it even tho they contacted it daily as all human beings do.

It is the one secret that has been absolutely preserved thruout all the ages, from the temporary enthusiast, the thrill or mystery hunter, the curious scholar or researcher, but it IS fundamental Truth and Truth is immutable and imperishable. We CAN attain everlasting life right here and NOW, if we are willing to undertake the life required for it, but 'it is lamentably true of Humanity that while the spirit may be tacitly willing, the flesh is very weak, weak because it is merely the flesh stretched over the dry bones, thinly disguising their uncanny rattle of superficiality.

Our Ancient Brethren understood the Truth in many respects far better than we. They taught that the SUPERIOR qualities and conditions were the Internal, the Above, and the Celestial (*Jun. Herm. No. 1*) and the IN-

FERIOR qualities and conditions were the External, the Terrestrial and the Below. The primacy was always given to the Superior of the two classifications, and while they as a consequence did not make the same advance in mechanical enterprise, they left behind them the priceless legacy of riches of wisdom which today constitute the basis of thought and scholarship and the sole key to the Mysteries of Life and Death.

It is possible for those of this modern world who wish to follow in their footsteps, to do so without immuring themselves in monasteries, convents or any other form of seclusion from the world. Separateness makes for diversity, diffusion and confusion, not for progress. It is possible to be IN the world yet not OF the world and while such may be sneeringly termed "mummies" BY the world, it will be only a revelation of the world's ignorance and its unreadiness to accept the true and natural way of life that leads to the REAL LIFE ETERNAL. The choice is ever offered but its acceptance is never compelled, for eternity stretches before Humanity and the gods are the embodiment of patience, knowing that Humanity MUST eventually learn its lesson, however much it may procrastinate.

If our Rosicrucianism means anything at all to us, let it lead us OUT of the Valley of Dry Bones. Let it clothe us with the real sinews of spiritual strength, the flesh of Truth, and the skin of Resistance to the temptations of Matter and endow us with the Breath of Divine Knowledge and Understanding, that we may come forth from Death and be raised unto LIFE Eternal here, and NOW.

Let us not lament the dead in other worlds, of which, at best, we know very little, but concern ourselves with the dead all about us. Let us wish them joy on their completion of another term in Life's School, but try and understand what that term has meant to them, profiting by what advance we have observed them to make, and endeavoring by laudable emulation to make even greater progress than they because OF their example, covering with the cloak of charity their possible failures, and magnifying their virtues, so that when our turn shall come to graduate into the higher life expression, we may carry to them a message of encouragement, based upon our advance due to their previous good works. This will be the real and only genuine reunion with the so-called departed.

There is only ONE REAL WAY, the way of Him who said, "I am the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIGHT". "No man cometh unto the Father, but by me". (*John xiv*, 6) It is the WAY of the Christos, our Planetary Regent, unto whose care all things on this earth are committed, and who is ready and waiting to be born anew in every human being who seeks AT-ONE-MENT with him.
